NSC BRIEFANCS, CHANGED TO: 13 G C

NEXT REVIEW DATE:

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1 May 1957

SOVIET DISARMAMENT PLAN

- I. The latest Soviet disarmament proposal presented to US on 26 Apr contains a number of features which Delegate Stassen believes are "intended for hard bargaining".
 - A. Certain features of the new proposal, particularly regarding the nuclear field, are well-known by the Soviets to be unacceptable to the US.
 - B. Soviet Delegate Zorin told Stassen, however, that further negotiation might produce a compromise formula.
 - Sovs may hold out on these particular points in effort to force negotiations to a higher level (where European security in general, as well as Middle East problems, could also be raised.
- II. Delegate Zorin explained to the US delegation, at the time he provided them with an advance copy of the text, that a prerequisite to any agreement is cessation or suspension of nuclear tests and a pledge not to use nuclear weapons.
 - A. The wording of such a proposed pledge, annexed to the new proposal, makes explicit the intention of all signatories eventually to eliminate all nuclear weapons from their arsenals.
- III. In summary, the new Sov proposal suggests:
 - A. A 15% reduction in armaments and defense budgets (as opposed to the US 10%.

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- 1. Whether Communist China is to be included is unclear.
- 2. The Soviet proposal claims that the USSR reduced its armed forces by 1,840,000 in the past year and a half and argues that, considering the large size of the USSR and its long borders, together with existing Western defense pacts, it would not be safe to come down only to 2.5 since the US would be able to keep too many forces overseas.
- C. Inspection and control functions, to be handled "within the framework" of the UN Security Council (with its built-in Great Power veto).
 - In the first phase of conventional reduction to the
 2.5 million level, the control organ would "receive and examine" information provided by signatory states.
 - Some control posts would also be set up during the first phase, but only at ports, railroad junctions and main highways.
 - 3. During first phase, such control posts would be established in the "Western border regions of the USSR, in the member countries of NATO and the Warsaw Treaty and in the eastern part of the US".
 - 4. Establishment of airfield cortrol posts is relegated to the next phase--reduction to the 1.5 million level.
 - 5. In addition, establishment of these airfield posts "must be related to the appropriate measures of the complete prohibition of atomic and hydrogen weapons with their elimination from national armaments."

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- 6. Note that such a linkage converts the nominally partial Soviet proposal into a comprehensive plan.
- D. Some features of past Soviet disarmament proposals are retained in the new proposal as recommendations. Among these:
 - Agreement to consider what foreign military bases can be liquidated over a two-year period.
 - 2. 1/3 force-level reductions in Germany.
 - 3. Reduction of foreign forces stationed in NATO and Warsaw Pact countries.
- E. On the question of aerial inspection and photography, the new proposal delimits a 25° arc in W. and E. Europe and a broad expanse of Sov and US territory in the Pacific basin (map).
 - declared to the US delegation that "exact" definition of these zones could be subject to further negotiation.
 - 2. Regarding the European zone, Zorin complained that earlier US proposals had modified the USSR's Nov '56 suggestion (a 1,000 mi. belt between East and West) in an eastward direction.
 - 3. Soviet proposal in the Pacific basin represents an expansion of previous US suggestions for aerial inspection in this zone (map).
 - 4. The Soviet expansion, to include roughly equal areas of both countries, would cover 2/3rds of the US--from the Pacific coast to Lake Superior and the Mississippi Valley.